

from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

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For Immediate Release

DOE/SRNS Meet Major Milestone with Over 300 Metric Tons of Low Enriched Uranium Delivered to TVA Power Reactors

This milestone marks the completion of a successful cooperative project between DOE and TVA to convert excess uranium into nuclear fuel, turning warheads into watts

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 2, 2011) The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) recently announced completion of the final shipment of low-enriched uranium (LEU) from the Savannah River Site to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

Today's announcement marks the end of the current contract to ship over 300 metric tons of LEU for use in TVA's nuclear power reactors.

The LEU solution has been used to create commercial reactor fuel for TVA power reactors since 2003. This final shipment also marks a significant step towards achieving the Department's goal of cleaning up the Savannah River Site (SRS).

According to SRNS Highly Enriched Uranium Program Manager



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions operations personnel prepare the final shipment of Low Enriched Uranium for transport to Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) commercial power reactors, which marks the end of a current contract to ship over 300 metric tons of LEU to create TVA fuel rods.

The Savannah River Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and is managed and operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.

Gigi Magoulas, 335 shipments have safely traveled from SRS to TVA facilities – enough LEU to power every home in the United States for 52 days, or every home in South Carolina for ten years. “This project will provide power to the U.S. while eliminating approximately 500 nuclear weapons,” said Magoulas.

DOE-Savannah River Operations Manager David Moody believes this project is a stellar example of how the Cold War facilities at SRS can be used today to further nonproliferation efforts and to remove nuclear material from South Carolina. “The NNSA and DOE’s Office of Environmental Management continue to work together to successfully achieve the Nation’s nonproliferation goals and to safely dispose of Cold War era nuclear waste,” said Moody.

Historically, highly enriched uranium (HEU) was used at SRS in the nuclear weapons production process. However, after the Cold War ended, the HEU was determined to be surplus legacy material. Since 2003, the site has “down blended” or diluted the quality HEU to the point where it is useless for nuclear weaponry, removing more than 22 metric tons of HEU from the DOE nuclear weapons production stockpile.

This down blend program was established by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) in 1996 to meet nonproliferation objectives and to convert the material to a useful peacetime form. The program utilizes facilities operated by SRNS, under DOE’s Environmental Management direction, to process, purify and convert HEU to LEU meeting the specifications established by TVA. The SRS facilities used in this process include H Canyon, the Savannah River National Laboratory, K Area, L Area and the F and H Area laboratories.

“The Savannah River Site’s H Canyon is the only large scale facility in the U.S. that can recycle contaminated HEU,” said Clif Webb, SRNS Vice President, Corporate Communications. “I’m proud of all of the SRNS employees associated with this highly successful and greatly beneficial program, which improves the environment by supplying more emissions-free, clean energy.”

TVA provides electricity for utility and business customers in most of Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia – an area of 80,000 square miles with a population of nine million. The price of electricity within TVA’s service territory is below the national average.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-Daniel Partnership comprised of Fluor, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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